

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10

NEA-10 HEW-06 OIC-02 L-03 /082 W

----- 094434

R 171434Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4698

INFO USUN 2068

USEC BRUSSELS 4813

UNCLAS GENEVA 5653

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UN ECOSOC EGEN

SUBJ: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO 15, UNICEF

1. BELGIUM, COLOMBIA, KENY AND ZAMBIA ARE COSPONSORING A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHILD. THIS ISSUE, CONTROVERSIAL AT THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, IS A DIFFICULT ONE FOR THE COUNCIL IN VIEW OF TWO FACTS: IT IS CALCULATED THAT THE YEAR WOULD COST \$2 MILLION: ECOSOC PREVIOUSLY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF COMMERATIVE YEARS. NONETHELESS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SPEAK AGAINST CHILDREN.

2. THE DEPARTMENTS' COMMENTS ON THE TEXT QUOTED BELOW ARE REQUESTED.

3. BEGIN TEXT

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,
TAKING NOTE OF THE VIEWS CONCERNING AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND1/ AND THE
DOCUMENTS MENTIONED THEREIN2/,
RECOGNIZING THAT, IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS TYPES OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, THERE IS NEED FOR ARAPID ENLARGEMENT AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT OF BASIC SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN TO HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE CHRON CONDITIONS OF POERTY AND NEED

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WHICH

AFFLICT CHILDREN IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
CONCERNED ALSO ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE CHILD IN ALL ITS ASPECTS,
INCLUDING HIS HUMAN RIGHTS, AS WELL AS HIS LEGAL AND CULTURAL
IDENTITY,
BELIEVING THAT A GREATLY ENHANCED AWARENESS BY THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY
ASSIST ENDEAVOURS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS,
BELIEVING FURTHER THAT AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, IF
ADEQUATELY PREPARED, SUPPORTED AND FINANCED BY GOVERNMENTS
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, COULD CONTRIBUTE
TO STRENGTHENING SUCH AWARENESS AND LEAD TO APPROPRIATE ACTION,
REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGAN-
IZATIONS CONCERNED
IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND WITH INTERESTED NON-GOVERN-
MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, THROUGH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AT ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION, A REPORT ON MEASURES AND MODALITIES
FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE PREPARATION, SUPPORT AND FINANCING OF AN
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, TO BE PREFERABLY THE YEAR
1979 AND IN CONNEXION WITH THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD^{3/}
^{1/} FOR THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND ON ITS MEETINGS HELD FROM 14 TO 30 MAY 1975, SEE
OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, FIFTY-NINTH
SESSION, SUPPLEMENT NO. 6 (E/5698, AND CORR.1)
^{2/} E/ICEF/L.1330, E/ICEF/L.1331, E/ICEF/NGO/145
^{3/} GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1386 (XIV) OF 20 NOVEMBER 1959
END TEXT DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHILDREN, MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA05653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750247-1028
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750748/aaaabqis.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO 15, UNICEF
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, UNICEF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006